

In the Claims

Please substitute the following amended claims for those currently pending:

1-3 (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Amended): A method of assembling a muntin bar lattice for use in an insulating glass unit, comprising the steps of:

providing a muntin bar segment having a wall;

providing a keeper including a lock;

the keeper being dimensioned for piercing the wall of the muntin bar segment;

piercing the wall of the muntin bar with the keeper;

positioning the keeper in a desired position in which a first portion of the keeper extends beyond a first side of the muntin bar segment and a second portion of the keeper extends beyond a second side of the muntin bar segment; and

locking the keeper in the desired position.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Amended): A method of assembling a muntin bar lattice for use in an insulating glass unit, comprising the steps of:

providing a muntin bar segment having a wall;

providing a keeper dimensioned for piercing the wall of the muntin bar segment;

piercing the wall of the muntin bar with the keeper;

positioning the keeper in a desired position in which a first portion of the keeper extends beyond a first side of the muntin bar segment and a second portion of the keeper extends beyond a second side of the muntin bar segment;

inserting the second portion of the keeper into a cavity of a second muntin bar segment;
and

inserting the first portion of the keeper into a cavity of a third muntin bar segment.

7-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Amended): A keeper for joining a first muntin bar segment to a second muntin bar segment, comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end;
the body having a tip portion disposed at the proximal end thereof;
the tip portion being dimensioned for piercing a wall of the first muntin bar segment to create an opening therein; and

the tip portion of the body comprising a first cutting edge having a length that is substantially equal to a thickness of the body.

12. (Previously Amended): The keeper of claim 11 , wherein the tip portion of the body includes a second cutting edge disposed at a first angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the body.

13. (Original): The keeper of claim 12, wherein the tip portion of the body includes a third cutting edge disposed at a second angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the body.

14. (Original): The keeper of claim 13, wherein the second angle is substantially equal to the first angle.

15. (Previously Amended): The keeper of claim 11, wherein the body is substantially symmetrical about a longitudinal axis thereof.

16. (Previously Amended): The keeper of claim 11, wherein the body is substantially symmetrical about a lateral axis thereof.

17. (Previously Amended): A keeper for joining a first muntin bar segment to a second muntin bar segment, comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end;

the body having a tip portion disposed at the proximal end thereof;

the tip portion being dimensioned for piercing a wall of the first muntin bar segment to create an opening therein; and

wherein the body has an overall width dimensioned to be received in a cavity of the second muntin bar segment.

18. (Previously Amended): A keeper for joining a first muntin bar segment to a second muntin bar segment, comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end;

the body having a tip portion disposed at the proximal end thereof;

the tip portion being dimensioned for piercing a wall of the first muntin bar segment to create an opening therein; and

wherein the first muntin bar segment comprises a material having a first modulus of elasticity and the keeper comprises a material having a second modulus of elasticity greater than the first modulus of elasticity.

19. (Previously Amended): A keeper for joining a first muntin bar segment to a second muntin bar segment, comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end;

the body having a tip portion disposed at the proximal end thereof;

the tip portion being dimensioned for piercing a wall of the first muntin bar segment to create an opening therein; and

wherein the first muntin bar segment comprises a material having a first yield strength and the keeper comprises a material having a second yield strength greater than the first yield strength.

20. (Previously Amended): A keeper for joining a first muntin bar segment to a second muntin bar segment, comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end;
the body having a tip portion disposed at the proximal end thereof;
the tip portion being dimensioned for piercing a wall of the first muntin bar segment to create an opening therein; and
wherein the first muntin bar segment comprises a material having a first hardness and the keeper comprises a material having a second hardness greater than the first hardness.

21. (Previously Amended): A keeper for joining a first muntin bar segment to a second muntin bar segment, comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end;
the body having a tip portion disposed at the proximal end thereof;
the tip portion being dimensioned for piercing a wall of the first muntin bar segment to create an opening therein; and
wherein the first muntin bar segment comprises aluminum and the keeper comprises stainless steel.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Amended): A keeper for joining a first muntin bar segment to a second muntin bar segment, comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end;
the body having a tip portion disposed at the proximal end thereof;

the tip portion being dimensioned for piercing a wall of the first muntin bar segment to create an opening therein; and

the keeper further including a lock for holding the keeper in a desired position relative to the first muntin bar segment, wherein the lock includes a ramping surface that is dimensioned to elastically deform the wall of the first muntin bar segment.

24 - 36. (Cancelled)